

1 THE MILL RACE

PART OF THE CAPTAIN COOK SERIES

A corn mill was an important part of the medieval village. Ayton Mill stood on what is now Mill Terrace, and dated back at least to the 13th century. The mill race carried water to power the mill, from upstream of the dam in the River Leven. At this point, the race crossed Goat Lane (now Easby Lane) by a ford, but in 1932 the water was taken under the road surface. This date can be seen on the stone parapet on the opposite side of Easby Lane. The mill race continued alongside Race Terrace to the mill pond, now the garden of 'Overbrook'. The upstream concrete parapet of a bridge, originally over the race, can be seen at the entrance to Sunnyfield Terrace and there is a metal bridge at the gateway into No.3 Overbrook.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Until Low Mill was built, after driving Ayton Mill's water wheel, the tail race carried the water across what is now the Stokesley Road and then directly into the River Leven. It flowed underneath 'Ivy Cottage' at the junction of Mill Terrace and the Stokesley Road; Ivy Cottage may have been the mysterious 'Guinea Pig Inn'.

Low Mill, or Grange Mill, also dates back to medieval times. The present building, now a private house, was probably built in the 18th century. The Ayton Mill tail race was diverted to take water to this mill. This diversion can still be seen on the north side of the Stokesley Road between the houses of 'Eastbrook' and 'Holmlea'. During its life Grange Mill has milled corn and also crushed linseeds to produce linseed oil.



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The interpretation Boards are located near the entrance to the memorial garden and next to the mill race in Easby Lane. The Garden has an obelisk dedicated to Captain James Cook and the garden marks the outline of the cottage built by James's father. The remains of the mill race serving the milling industry of the village can be seen from the garden.

CAPTAIN COOK'S PANEL LOCATIONS

